Committees for Billing System of DESU

3483. SHRI TARA CHAND KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have set up various committees from time to time to study the billing system of the Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking and the problems being faced by the consumers;

(b) if so, the details of the reports submitted by these committees;

(c) whether the Government have examined the reports of the committees;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the details of the fresh measures the Government propose to take to simplify the billing system of DESU?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (d) According to the DESU, the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances had conducted a study on the simplification of procedures for billing and refund of security deposits by DESU. In their report, it has *inter-alia* been suggested to follow a uniform procedure in all the Districts for preparation of meter-sheets, introduction of rotational meter reading; identification of connections where bills have not been issued for more than a year; introduction of spot billing system on trial basis; feasibility of issuing the first bill on actual reading and the next bill on assessment basis on monthly/bi-monthly intervals; dispensing with the system of security deposit for Government accommodation and transfer of security deposits in case of private accommodation etc.

As a result of the implementation of many of the suggestions of the Study Team, and taking other measures to improve and simplify the billing procedure in DESU and gradual stabilisation of the computerised billing system, DESU has been able to considerably bring down the incidence of incorrect and delayed billing.

(e) At present the consumer billing system of DESU is computerised and is working satisfactorily. DESU has installed computer terminals in its 23 District Offices out of 24 District Offices to facilitate transmission and retrieval of the data relating to the electricity bills to and from the main Computer Centre. This facilitates in prompt attendance/redressal of the complaints regarding electricity bills. The present computerised billing system is functioning effectively. The position is reviewed from time to time by DESU in the light of the suggestions received from the consumers etc.

Poor Development of Mining Areas

3484. SHRIMATI D.K. BHANDARI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the poor development of coal mining areas;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to overcome the poor development of mining areas?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) to (c) Prior to nationalisation of coal industry, the development of coal mining areas had been inadequate. Since the nationalisation of the industry in 1973, the coal companies have been making special efforts to improve the quality of life of both its employees and the general population. There has been significant improvement in the welfare amenities for the coal workers and in the environmental and ecological conditions in and around the coalfields. Steps in this direction are taken as part of Five Year Plans, 20 point programme, Special Component Plan for the benefit of Scheduled Castes, Tribal Sub-Plan for the benefit of Scheduled Tribes and Community Development Plan for the benefit of the general population.

Kakinada-Kotipalli Railway Line

3485. SHRI G.M.C. BALAYOGI:
SHRI K.V.R. CHOWDARY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme to